

Join the Fight Against Pulmonary Fibrosis - Save Lives - Send in Your Contribution Today!!

Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

"It Leaves You Breathless"

Respiratory ailments are the third leading cause of death in the United States, responsible for one in seven deaths. The lung disease death rate is climbing while those for heart disease and cancer have dropped. More than 30 million Americans now live, painfully, with lung disease and close to 350,000 die from it every year.

Pulmonary Fibrosis is a disease for which, in most cases, there is no known cure. There are five million people worldwide that are affected by this disease. In the U. S. alone 200,000 suffer from this malady. Of these more than 40,000 die annually. This is the same as die from Breast Cancer, more than those who die from Ovarian or Prostate Cancer and forty times more than those who die from Cystic Fibrosis. Yet, Pulmonary Fibrosis does not have the visibility, publicity, or fund-raising networks of these other more prominent medical conditions. However, for those patients who suffer from this dreaded disorder, the debilitating impact is no less severe and is usually fatal.

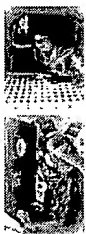
Pulmonary Fibrosis is an illness in which the air sacs or "alveoli" of the lungs are gradually replaced by scar tissue. As the disease progresses the increase in scar tissue interferes with the ability to transfer oxygen from the lungs to the bloodstream. The act of breathing becomes more

The victims of Pulmonary Fibrosis cover a wide age spectrum. In most cases the onset of the disease occurs in adults between the ages of forty and seventy. However, though the incidence may be rare young children are also affected. A common but frustrating form of the disease is known as Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. The term idiopathic indicates that the cause of the disease is unknown. Traditional theories have postulated that it might be an autoimmune disorder, or the after effects of an infection, viral in nature. There is a growing body of evidence which points to a genetic predisposition. The most current thinking is that the fibrotic process is a reaction to microscopic injury to the lung.

The primary mission of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is to improve the quality of life of those affected by this terrible disease. Our program funds both basic and applied research into this disorder. Areas of interest are studies in pathogenesis, genetics, novel therapies and epidemiological

difficult with the passage of time leading to a condition of general breathlessness or Dyspnea. Simple activities like walking or talking on the phone become difficult. Oxygen therapy is utilized at this point. The patient eventually succumbs to either heart or respiratory failure.

investigation. In addition, the Foundation is currently affiliated with thirteen diagnostic and treatment centers specifically aimed at early diagnosis of Pulmonary Fibrosis. This increases the likelihood of a positive response to therapy.



Through your support we hope to empower scientists and physicians to sufficiently increase biomedical knowledge to the point where having Pulmonary Fibrosis no longer implies a death sentence.



Send all inquiries and donations to:

**Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
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breathe@pulmonaryfibrosis.org

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Help find a cure for Pulmonary Fibrosis

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News Flash! Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation and National Jewish Medical Center join forces in research program to find cure for Pulmonary Fibrosis

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